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Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

DOTE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 FAA-00 L-02 SS-15 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 USIA-06 /053 W
---------- 130014
R 202102Z FEB 75
FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7717

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EAIR, VE
SUBJECT: US-VENEZUELAN CIVIL AVIATION CONSULTATIONS

REF: CARACAS 1712 AND CARACAS 1747

1. THE FOLLOWING BIOGRAPHIC DATA ON MEMBERS OF VENEZUELAN DELEGATION IS SUBMITTED FOR USE OF MEMBERS OF US DELEGATION.

2. BRIG. GENERAL EDGAR SUAREZ MIER Y TERAN: DIRECTOR OF DIVIL AERONAUTICS; FORMER COMMANDING OFFICER OF COMBAT COMMAND; UNDERSTANDS AND READS ENGLISH WELL, SPEAKS IT HALTINGLY. REPRESENTS "HARD LINE" IN CIVIL AVIATION NEGOTIATIONS, BUT HIGHLY INTELLIGENT AND WILL UNDERSTAND AND ACCEPT SOUND REASONING. TENDS TO BE IMPATIENT WITH POLICIES WHICH HE CONSIDERS OUTDATED. OUTSPOKEN ENEMY OF "PRE-SCREENING."

3. MINISTER COUNSELLOR MARIANO TIRADO: CAREER DIPLOMAT, REPORTEDLY 25 YEARS HEADING VENEZUELA'S AVIATION, SHIPPING AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN MINISTRY. VERY EXPERIENCED, HAS PARTICIPATED IN COUNTLESS INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES AND BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS. KNOWS OUR POLICIES WELL, INCLUDING ALL TRENDS AND CHANGES DURING PAST. DOE NOT ACCEPT ATTEMPTS

TO PULL WOOL OVER HIS EYES AND WILL REACT WITH IMPATIENCE. COMEGNES
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REALISM WITH DIPLOMACY. SPECIFICALLY, CMJSIDERS BILATERAL AS

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VIABLE INSTRUMENT BUT WANTS MORE FLEXIBILITY AND MORE FREQUENT CHANGES ACCORDING TO CHANGING POLICIES AND PRACTICES.

4. DR. ALFREDO MONQUE: CHIEF OF AIR TRANSPORT DIVISION OF DIRECTORATE OF CIVIL AERONAUTICS, SOMEWHAT OF A ONE-MAN CAB. HANDLES TARIFFS, FREQUENCIES, SCHEDULES, LANDING PERMITS, CHARTERS, ETC LAWYER, INTELLIGENT BUT WITH LIMITED KNOWLEDGE OF WORLD-WIDE PRACTICES. DOES NOT KNOW OR IS UNABLE TO REALIZE CONSEQUENCES OF SOME OF HIS ACTIONS. HIGHLY PROTECTIVE TOWARDS NATIONAL AIRLINES, SOMETIMES UNREALISTICALLY SO. FAVORS PRE-DETERMINATION.

5. ANDRES BOULTON: OWNER OF AVENSA AIRLINE AND THROUGH IT OF 45 PERCENT OF VIASA. HEAD OF GROUP OF COMPANIES ENGAGED IN MULTITUTE OF ACTIVITIES IN INDUSTRY AND TRADE. ONE OF VENEZUELA'S RICHEST MEN, HIGHLY RESPECTED. FREQUENTLY CONSIDERED THE "GREY EMINENCE" OF AVIATION POLICY.

6. GENERAL (RET) OSCAR CLAVO MEJIA: PRESIDENT OF LAV (GOV-OWNED DOMESTIC CARRIER), DIRECTOR AND CONSULTANT OF VIASA. FORMER INSPECTOR GENERAL OF AIR FORCE, DIRECTOR OF CIVIL AERONAUTICS. VERY PRACTICAL-MINDED, RAPIDLY LOSES PATIENCE WITH UNPRODUCTIVE TALKING, HAS BEEN KNOWN TO WALK OUT OF INTERNATIONAL NEGOTIATIONS. HIS KNOWLEDGE OF CIVIL AVIATION MATTERS IS PROBABLY NOT WHAT HE AND OTHERS IN VNENEZUELA CONSIDER IT TO BE BUT HE IS HIGHLY INFLUENTIAL, PARTLY BECAUSE OF HIS MILITARY BACKGROUND.

7. AMBASSADOR DR. MELCHOR MONTEVERDE: LEGAL CONSELLOR OF FOREIGN MINISTRY. DIRECTOR OF ECONOMIC POLICY UNDER PEREZ JIMENEZ, THEN FOR YEARS JUDGE IN SMALL MUNICIPALITY. CALLED BACK AND PROMOTED RAPIDLY UNDER CALDERA GOVERNMENT. QUITE, RESERVED, VERY MUCH A GENTLEMAN, HIGHLY KNOWLEDGEABLE BUT FREQUENTLY TOO RESERVED TO CONVERT HIS ABILITY INTO INFLUENCE. HAS FREQUENTLY REPRESENTED VENEZUELA AS CHAIRMAN OF VENEZUELAN DELEGATIONS AT ICAO MEETINGS, INTELSAT, VARIOUS BILATERAL CIVIL AVIATION NEGOTIATIONS.

8. OSCAR AGUERREVERE: COMMERCIAL MANAGER OF VIASA. US EDUCATED. IS BEING CREDITED WITH HAVING NEGOTIATED ALL OF VIASA'S POOL AGREEMENTS. EXTREMELY KNOWLEDGEABLE OF CAB POLICIES AND ACTIONS.
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9. FRANCISCO AGUERREVERE (COUSIN TO OSCAR): GENERAL MANAGER OF VIASA SINCE A FEW MONTHS AGO, FORMERLY OPERATIONS VP OF AVENSA. US EDUCATED, ENGINEER, GENERALLY CONSIDERED EXCELLENT MANAGER OF AN AIRLINE.

10. JOSE JESUA ALGRETT, MINISTER PLENIPOTENTIARY, VENEZUELAN EMBASSY, WASHINGTON, WHO ALREADY WELL KNOWN TO DEPT. OFFICIALS.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CIVIL AVIATION, BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION, NEGOTIATIONS, AVIATION AGREEMENTS, MEETING DELEGATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 FEB 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975CARACA01918
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750062-0838
From: CARACAS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750229/aaaaazji.tel
Line Count: 116
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 CARACAS 1712, 75 AND CARACAS 1747
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 12 SEP 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <12 SEP 2003 by izenbei0>; APPROVED <23 SEP 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

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US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: US-VENEZUELAN CIVIL AVIATION CONSULTATIONS
TAGS: EAIR, VE, US, (SUAREZ MIER Y TERAN, EGAR), (TIRADO, MARIANO)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006